

DOCKET NO.: THOM-0038
Application No.: 10/519,514
Preliminary Amendment - First Action Not Yet Received

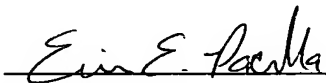
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REMARKS

This preliminary amendment is submitted prior to examination. Early consideration and allowance of the present patent application are requested.

In the amendments, a paragraph relating the cross-reference to related applications has been added. Appropriate section headings have also been added to the specification. Claims 1-2, 4-5, 7, 9-15, 17-19, 21-24, 26-29, and 31 have been amended to better comport with U.S. claiming practice by removing multiple dependencies and the like. Claims 3, 8, 16, 20, 25, 30, and 32-34 are cancelled herein. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

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